

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 308057
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW:DH

APPROVED BY AF:RMOOSE

AF/S:DPETTERSON

S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER

-----019202 280035Z /66

O 280000Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 308057

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, PDEV, UK

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SITHOLE APPROACH

REF: A) PRETORIA 6985; B) PRETORIA 6995; C) PRETORIA 7023;
D, LUSAKA 3916

1. SUMMARY: BRITISH EMBASSY HAS GIVEN US OWEN'S IDEAS
FOR DRAFT RESPONSE TO SITHOLE APPROACH. WE FIND THEIR
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APPROVED BY: IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 308057

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 308057 ACTION USUN NEW YORK DEC 28.

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THE FOREGOING HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND AGREED WITH THE AMERICANS AND THE LATTER ARE CONTENT THAT WE SHOULD ACT AS THE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO MR. SITHOLE.
END OF TEXT.

3. DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED THAT PROPOSED BRITISH RESPONSE IS TOO LENGTHY AND MAY UNWITTINGLY GET US INVOLVED, BY GIVING ADVICE, IN PRECISELY THE TYPE OF ENTRAPMENT IN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT GAMBIT WHICH OWEN AND WE SEEK TO AVOID. FURTHER WE BELIEVE THAT CONTACT WITH SITHOLE SHOULD BE ABOVE-BOARD AND NOT THROUGH HIDDEN CHANNELS. WE WANT TO AVOID GIVING ANYONE IMPRESSION THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE. FURTHER WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO BRITISH THAT THEY CONSIDER CONTACTING MUZOREWA AT THE SAME TIME, INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SITHOLE'S REPRESENTATIVE AND WOULD WELCOME CONTACT WITH THE BISHOP AS WELL. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THIS BE DONE VIA OPEN TELEPHONE CALLS FROM CHARGE SUMMERHAYES IN PRETORIA TO THE PRINCIPALS IN SALISBURY. SUMMERHAYES WOULD

BE AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR US AS WELL.

4. WE HAVE GREATLY CONDENSED THE SUGGESTED UK TALKING POINTS INTO THE FOLLOWING WHICH WE HAVE PASSED TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY WITH A REQUEST THAT THEY OBTAIN FCO'S THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER:

-- WE APPRECIATED DR. GABELLAH'S BRIEFING AND WOULD LIKE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH REVEREND SITHOLE AS WELL AS BISHOP MUZOREWA.

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PAGE 06 STATE 308057

-- DR. GABELLAH HAS ASKED THAT WE SHOULD TELL HIM WHAT WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. BY DEFINITION, OUR OWN PROPOSALS ARE ACCEPTABLE AND ARE OUR YARDSTICK. OUR ADVICE IS THAT REVEREND SITHOLE AND BISHOP MUZOREWA ADHERE AS FIRMLY AS POSSIBLE TO THESE PROPOSALS WHICH WE CONTINUE TO PURSUE AND WHICH WE WILL BE DISCUSSING FURTHER WITH THEM.

-- TO BE SUCCESSFUL, A SETTLEMENT MUST INVOLVE ALL OF THE MAJOR NATIONALIST FORCES IN THE TRANSITIONAL PROCESS AND ELECTIONS LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE. MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE HAVE AN OBVIOUS ROLE TO PLAY IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS AS CO-LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. INVITATIONS TO THEM TO JOIN WITH YOU IN THE SETTLEMENT EFFORT SHOULD BE GENUINE AND NOT HEDGED WITH IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS IF THEY ARE TO BE AT ALL CREDIBLE. VANCE UNQTE VANCE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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